

**METHOD FOR DETECTING A SHORTED PRINTHEAD
IN A PRINTER HAVING AT LEAST TWO PRINTHEADS**

ABSTRACT

A calibration resistor and a capacitance load are placed in parallel across
5 the output of a voltage source and a first decay time is determined for the voltage to
reach a second voltage from a first voltage after the voltage source is disconnected.
With the calibration resistor electrically removed, N printheads of a printer and the
capacitance load are placed in parallel across the voltage source output. In a first
example, the voltage across the capacitance load at a second decay time, which is
10 shorter than the first decay time, is determined and indicates at least one possibly
shorted printhead when less than the second voltage. In a second example, the voltage
across the capacitance load at the first decay time is determined and indicates at least
one possibly shorted printhead when less than a third voltage which is less than the
second voltage.

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